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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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August 16, 1988

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU'S SUPERVISED PRACTICE PROGRAM IN DIETETICS RECEIVES APPROVAL

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's Pre-Professional Practice Program for candidates in the masters of science in home economics-dietetics option degree program is one of eight programs in the United States recently approved for 10 years by the Council on Education Division of Education Accreditation/American Dietetic Association (ADA).

According to Dr. Ruth Dow, dietetics program coordinator at Eastern, "We already had a quality program, but it is an important step for our program to be approved. This process indicates we have undergone a rigorous review."

The self-study required for ADA approval is a lengthy, meticulous process. Required documentation is the same as for accreditation, except that a site visit is not included.

In its report, the ADA commended the Eastern program for its strong administrative support and well qualified program director.

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Initiated in 1979 on a pilot basis, the current program received Illinois Board of High Education approval as a combined master's/clinical experience program in 1981. Seven Illinois hospitals (Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana; St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, Effingham; St. Mary's Hospital, Decatur; St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Belleville; BroMenn Health Care, Bloomington; and United Samaritans Medical Center, Danville) are now affiliated with the graduate dietetics program, which includes both courses and the Pre-Professional Practice Program.

"We have said from the inception of the program that our graduates are qualified to practice dietetics any place. However, we do think the experience and ability to practice in a non-metropolitan area is an asset," Dow commented.

She said there are many excellent job opportunities in dietetics, adding that most of Eastern's graduates become registered dietitians, employed as chief clinical dietitians, dietary consultants, nutritionists or food service directors.

There has also been a growing trend in the number of graduates who go into private dietetic practice, Dow commented.